

Rockefeller '60 Staff Ponders Its Next Job

Special Campaign Force Expects Further Work for Governor, Party

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By Laurence Barrett

Gov. Rockefeller's decision not to seek the Republican Presidential nomination left in doubt yesterday the future of the special staff he had assembled to do two jobs— gauge his chances of becoming the nominee, and, if the report were affirmative, to carry on the pre-convention fight.

This group consists of some twenty advisers, speech writers, traveling representatives, researchers and publicity men. It operates out of the Governor's private New York offices on W. 55th Street. Many of those involved are prominent New York State Republicans.

Mr. Rockefeller returned to Albany from his Pocantico Hills home in Westchester yesterday afternoon with plans to plunge immediately into the work of the legislative session ahead. He refused to elaborate on his unexpected withdrawal on Saturday.

Asked whether he would reconsider his decision, he replied with a smile, "No, no, no, no. I have nothing to add to what I said . . . I thought I did a good job in the statement. It covered what I had to say."

Asked whether he would be receptive to a draft, presumably for the Vice-Presidency at the Republican convention, he replied, "Where's the car?" and entered his limousine.

Holds Staff Meeting

After a series of disclaimers amounting to "I have no further comment" to newsmen at the Albany Airport, the Governor was driven in a cold drizzle to the Executive Mansion. There he had a staff meeting last night to put the finishing touches on his annual message to the Legislature, which he will deliver on Jan. 6. Like the Governor, members of the special staff were not saying anything yesterday to Saturday's dramatic announcement. Several said privately

that the Governor had not made up his mind as to the team's future mission, if any.

"Many of us are hoping to devote more time to our law practices," one of those who had traveled around the country in search of Rockefeller delegates said yesterday. "But with a Presidential year coming," he added, "we plan to be pretty busy anyway. Undoubtedly many of us will continue to work closely with the Governor."

Although Gov. Rockefeller renounced Presidential aspirations for the present, he did not say he would remain isolated within the state borders. On the contrary, he promised to "speak with full freedom and vigor on these issues that confront our nation and the world."

This statement was taken to mean that he would continue to need speech writers who are experienced in dealing with important questions — men like Hugh Morrow, John Franklin Carter, Horace Craig and Emmet J. Hughes, all of whom have had wide experience and have worked with the Rockefeller forces in the last few months.

Others on Team

Other prominent members of the team are George Hinman, national committeeman for the state; Roswell E. Perkins, former counsel to the Governor; R. Burdell Bixby, treasurer of the Republican State Committee and law partner of Thomas E. Dewey, and Lyle W. Hornbeck, secretary of the state committee.

These last four, with L. Judson Morhouse, the state chairman who has acted as a sort of chief of staff, can be expected to remain in close touch with the Governor. It was these

men who did most of the traveling for the Governor, making contacts with Republican leaders in other states. Their primary mission was to take soundings. They also tried to make friends.

It is reasonable to assume that if the Governor wishes to remain in national politics—and there has been no evidence that he does not—he will want to maintain relations with state leaders elsewhere.

Less Travel

It also has been the group's task to do research for the Governor so that he could decide what stands to take on particular issues. Another function has been to measure the reaction to the stands he takes. How much of this will continue depends on the degree to which the Governor wishes to remain in the national picture.

The arrangement of trips and appearances was also done by the staff. There is going to be less need for this sort of activity now that actual campaigning has been ruled out.

Public relations and publicity also come within the staff's jurisdiction. All active politicians feel the need to create a certain picture of themselves in the electorate's collective mind.

This is public relations in its broadest sense. Publicity work—the job of actually getting the principal's name and face in mass communications media in a manner favorable to him—is another, more limited function.

Gov. Rockefeller has been getting some expert advice in public relations from his advisers. He also maintains, as any Governor of New York would, the standard publicity apparatus.

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WAKE FOR WOODS—The mourners were merry though their hearts were heavy over the passing of an era. Families most affected by the proposed super-highway leading to CIA's projected installation in Langley, Va., gathered Thursday night for an outdoors wake in the wooded area to be cleared for the highway. Tables were set up under one of the biggest trees, and above, the group takes one last, lingering look at a "tree house" built by the area's small fry that will come down, eventually, with the tree.



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